

**STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY
301 KAR 2:221E**

This emergency administrative regulation establishes waterfowl seasons and limits. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prescribes final frameworks from which states may select season dates, limits, and other options for migratory bird hunting seasons. The 2020-2021 migratory bird hunting season framework was published in the August 21, 2020 edition of the Federal Register. This administrative regulation is necessary to establish the 2020-2021 waterfowl hunting seasons in accordance with the USFWS framework. This emergency administrative regulation will be replaced by an ordinary administrative regulation. The ordinary administrative regulation is identical to this emergency administrative regulation.

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
MIKE BERRY, Secretary
BRIAN CLARK, Deputy Commissioner

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
(Emergency Amendment)**

301 KAR 2:221E. Waterfowl seasons and limits.

EFFECTIVE: October 30, 2020

RELATES TO: KRS 150.010(41), 150.025(1), 150.305(1), 150.330, 150.340(1), (3), 150.990

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 150.025(1), 150.360, 150.600(1), 50 C.F.R. 20, 21

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations to establish open seasons for the taking of wildlife and to regulate bag limits. KRS 150.360 authorizes the department to restrict methods of taking wildlife. KRS 150.600(1) authorizes the department to regulate the taking of waterfowl on public and private land. This administrative regulation establishes requirements for the taking of waterfowl within reasonable limits and within the frameworks established by 50 C.F.R. Parts 20 and 21.

Section 1. Definitions. (1) "Dark goose" means a Canada goose, cackling goose, white-fronted goose, or brant.

(2) "Light Goose" means a snow goose or Ross's goose.

(3) "Light Goose Conservation Order" is defined by 50 C.F.R. 21.60.

(4) "Waterfowl" is defined by KRS 150.010(41).

Section 2. (1) Except as established in 301 KAR 2:222, 2:225, or 2:226, a person shall not hunt waterfowl except during the seasons established in this administrative regulation.

(2) Hunting zones, special hunt areas, and reporting areas are established in 301 KAR 2:224.

Section 3. Season Dates. (1) The duck, coot, and merganser season shall:

(a) Begin on Thanksgiving Day for four (4) consecutive days; and

(b) Be from December 7 through January 31.

(2) The dark goose season shall be from Thanksgiving Day through February 15.

- (3) The light goose season shall be from Thanksgiving Day through February 15.
- (4) The Light Goose Conservation Order season shall be from February 16 through March 31.
- (5) A person shall not hunt a light or dark goose in:
 - (a) The areas of Laurel River Lake as posted by sign; or
 - (b) Cave Run Lake and the public land inside the boundary formed by Highways 801, 1274, 36, 211, US 60, and Highway 826.

Section 4. Ballard Zone. (1) In the Ballard Zone, as established in 301 KAR 2:224, a person hunting waterfowl shall:

- (a) Not hunt or establish a blind within:
 - 1. 100 yards of another blind; or
 - 2. Fifty (50) yards of a property line; and
- (b) Not possess more than one (1) uncased or loaded shotgun while in a blind.
- (2) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section shall not apply if the Light Goose Conservation Order, as established in Section 3 of this administrative regulation, is the only waterfowl season open, excluding falconry seasons.

Section 5. Bag and Possession Limits. (1) Ducks. The daily limit shall be six (6), which shall not include more than:

- (a) Four (4) mallards;
- (b) Two (2) hen mallards;
- (c) Three (3) wood ducks;
- (d) Two (2) black ducks;
- (e) Two (2) redheads;
- (f) One (1) pintail;
- (g) One (1)[Three (3)] scaup beginning Thanksgiving Day for four (4) consecutive days and December 7 through December 17;
- (h) Two (2) scaup beginning on December 18 through January 31;
- (i) One (1) mottled duck; or
- (j) Two (2) canvasbacks.

(2) Coot. The daily limit shall be fifteen (15).

(3) Merganser. The daily limit shall be five (5), which shall not include more than two (2) hooded mergansers.

(4) Dark goose. The daily limit shall be five (5), which shall not include more than:

- (a) Three (3) Canada geese or cackling geese, in combination;
- (b) Two (2) white-fronted geese; or
- (c) One (1) brant.

(5) Light goose. The daily limit shall be twenty (20), except that there shall not be a limit during the Light Goose Conservation Order season.

(6) The possession limit shall be triple the daily limit, except that there shall not be a light goose possession limit.

Section 6. Shooting Hours. A person shall not hunt waterfowl except from one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise until:

- (1) Sunset, except as established in 301 KAR 2:222; or
- (2) One-half (1/2) hour after sunset if hunting light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order season.

Section 7. Falconry Waterfowl Season and Limits. (1) The light goose season shall be from Thanksgiving Day through February 15.

(2) The Light Goose Conservation Order season shall be from February 16 through March 31.

(3) The season for all other waterfowl shall be from Thanksgiving Day through February 15.

(4) The daily limit shall be three (3) waterfowl, except that there shall not be a limit on light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order season.

(5) The possession limit shall be nine (9) waterfowl, except that there shall not be a possession limit on light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order season.

Section 8. Permit for the Light Goose Conservation Order season. (1) A person hunting light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order season shall first obtain a free permit by completing the online Snow Goose Conservation Order Permit process on the department's Web site at fw.ky.gov.

(2) A person hunting light geese during the Light Goose Conservation Order season shall submit a Snow Goose Conservation Order Permit Survey to the department by April 10.

Section 9. Incorporation by Reference. (1) The following material is incorporated by reference:

(a) "Snow Goose Conservation Order Permit", January 2014; and

(b) "Snow Goose Conservation Order Permit Survey", January 2014.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

BRIAN CLARK, Deputy Commissioner
MIKE BERRY, Secretary

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact Person: Beth Frazee

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What the administrative regulation does: This administrative regulation establishes waterfowl seasons and bag limits within federal migratory bird hunting frameworks established in 50 CFR Parts 20 and 21 according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

(b) The necessity of the administrative regulation: The necessity of this administrative regulation is to establish the 2020-2021 waterfowl hunting seasons in accordance with the USFWS.

(c) How does this administrative regulation conform to the authorizing statute: KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations to establish open seasons for the taking of wildlife and to regulate bag limits. KRS 150.360 authorizes the department to restrict methods for the taking of wildlife. KRS 150.600(1) authorizes the department to regulate the taking of waterfowl on public and private land.

(d) How will this administrative regulation assist in the effective administration of the statutes: This administrative regulation assists in the effective administration of the statutes by establishing hunting season and bag limit requirements and providing reasonable hunting opportunity consistent with state, national, and international management requirements.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change the existing administrative regulation: This amendment will change the daily bag limit for scaup to 1 scaup daily during the first 15 days of regular duck season, then a bag limit of 2 scaup daily during the remaining 45 days. Additionally, it will allow hunters to possess more than one weapon while hunting while still limiting them to possessing only one loaded or uncased weapon at a time.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation: Waterfowl seasons and limits are set on an annual basis following the establishment of federal frameworks by the USFWS each year. It is the Department's responsibility to allow quality hunting opportunity within these federal frameworks. The changes in bag limit for these species represent the maximum allowed in federal frameworks.

(c) How does the amendment conform to the authorizing statutes: See (1)(c) above.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes: See (1)(d) above.

(3) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations or state and local governments that will be affected: There are approximately 20,000 waterfowl hunters in Kentucky that may be affected by this administrative regulation.

(4) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (3) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (3) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment: The current changes in season dates and/or bag limits will be published in the fall waterfowl hunting guide and on the department's website. Hunters will need to follow all applicable amendments to the hunting bag limits.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (3): There will be no additional costs to those identified in question (3).

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (3): They will be in compliance with Federal law.

(5) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially: There will not be an additional cost to implement this administrative regulation initially.

(b) On a continuing basis: There will be no additional cost on a continuing basis.

(6) What is the source of funding to be used for implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation? The source of funding is the State Game and Fish fund.

(7) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change if it is an amendment. It will not be necessary to increase any fees or funding to implement this administrative regulation.

(8) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees directly or indirectly increases any fees: This administrative regulation does not establish any fees directly or increase any fees indirectly.

(9) TIERING: Is tiering applied? Tiering was not applied. The same guidelines and limits apply to all waterfowl hunters.

FISCAL NOTE ON STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(1) What units, parts, or divisions of state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) will be impacted by this administrative regulation? The Department's Wildlife Division and Law Enforcement Division.

(2) Identify each state or federal statute or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation. KRS 150.025(1) authorizes the department to promulgate administrative regulations to establish open seasons for the taking of wildlife and to regulate bag limits. KRS 150.360 authorizes the department to restrict methods of taking wildlife. KRS 150.600 authorizes the department to regulate the taking of waterfowl on public and private land.

(3) Estimate the effect of this administrative regulation on the expenditures and revenues of a state or local government agency (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for the first full year the administrative regulation is to be in effect.

(a) How much revenue will this administrative regulation generate for the state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for the first year? This amendment will not generate revenue for the first year.

(b) How much revenue will this administrative regulation generate for the state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for subsequent years? This amendment will not generate revenue in subsequent years.

(c) How much will it cost to administer this program for the first year? There will be no additional costs to administer this program for the first year.

(d) How much will it cost to administer this program for subsequent years? There will be no additional costs to administer this program in subsequent years.

Note: If specific dollar estimates cannot be determined, provide a brief narrative to explain the fiscal impact of the administrative regulation.

Revenues (+/-):

Expenditures (+/-):

Other Explanation:

FEDERAL MANDATE ANALYSIS COMPARISON

1. Federal statute or regulation constituting the federal mandate. Wildlife and Fisheries, Federal Code of Regulations, 50 C.F.R. Part 20, Migratory Bird Hunting; Part 21, Migratory Bird Permits.

2. State compliance standards. The Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources sets migratory birds seasons within the frameworks established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and published in 50 C.F.R. Parts 20 and 21.

3. Minimum or uniform standards contained in the federal mandate. 50 C.F.R. Part 20 contains season frameworks for the earliest opening and latest closing date, the maximum number of days a species is open to hunting, and daily bag and possession limits. 50 C.F.R. Part 21 defines permits and the necessary requirements to hold and possess migratory game birds before, during and after periods open for hunting.

4. Will this administrative regulation impose stricter requirements, or additional or different responsibilities or requirements, than those required by the federal mandate? Yes.

5. Justification for the imposition of the stricter standard, or additional or different responsibilities or requirements. The federal mandate defines the regulatory frameworks that a state may allow. States are permitted to be more restrictive but not more liberal in their respective regulations. State management objectives necessitate more restrictive regulations to protect local, regional and/or state populations of birds important to Kentucky's waterfowl hunters. The Department imposes more restrictive hunting regulations in some regions in effort to meet waterfowl management objectives while still providing quality hunting opportunity.